## **WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS**

It is the intent of the Montana Association of Counties to urge Congress to support the decisions of county officials regarding the designations of Wilderness Study Areas.

**WHEREAS**, Wilderness Study Areas in the State of Montana were studied by the federal land management agencies responsible for the management of those areas, and:

WHEREAS, an official recommendation has been made by those agencies, and;

**WHEREAS**, the intent of Congress and the federal land management agency was that Congress would make a final decision upon completion of those defined studies as to whether those lands should be restored to historic uses prior to the Wilderness Study Area designation or become Wilderness Areas; and

**WHEREAS**, those counties where the Wilderness Study Areas are within their jurisdictional boundaries are the counties and communities where the designation of the Wilderness Study Area stand to be impacted the most, and

**WHEREAS**, the Montana Association of Counties believes that decisions of destiny should be made at the local level.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Montana Association of Counties shall urge Congress to support the decisions made by local county officials as to the future designation of Wilderness Study Areas.

**SPONSOR:** MACo Public Lands Committee

**RECOMMENDATION**: Do Pass

PRIORITY: High

**REFERRED TO:** Public Lands Committee

ADOPTED: MACo Annual Conference

September 26, 2007 Great Falls, Montana